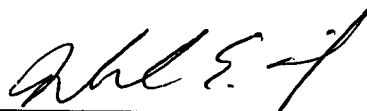


1. The above-identified application was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by the firm of Brinks, Hofer, Gilson, and Lione on January 30, 2001.

2. Attorney for Applicants contends that the original Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due was never received, and attests that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was never received by Applicant's attorney's law firm of Brinks, Hofer, Gilson, and Lione, in Chicago, Illinois.
3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 in support of this declaration is a copy of the docket report where the non-received Office Action would have been entered had it been received.
4. This declaration, and accompanying petition and supporting materials are being timely filed in response to the Notice of Abandonment dated June 27, 2003.
5. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:

July 30, 2003



Michael E. Milz, Reg. No. 34,880